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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 001292

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ISN/MTR FOR PDURHAM

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TAGS: [MTCRE](#) [ETTC](#) [KSCA](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [FR](#)  
SUBJECT: FRENCH RESPONSE TO U.S. MTCR PLENARY PROPOSALS

REF: A. STATE 090236  
[1](#)B. 9/21/2009 ISN/MTR EMAIL

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Kathy Allegrone, Reasons 1.  
4(b), (d).

[1](#)1. (C) French Missile Technology Control Regime Point of  
Contact (MTCR POC) Florent Aydalot responded on September 22  
to the proposals contained in reftel, as follows:

- Information Exchange and Technical Experts Meeting (IE-TEM)  
Working Group: Aydalot said he wondered whether introducing a  
new working group would not be increasing the complexity of  
the MTCR process for little gain. Although France is not  
necessarily opposed to the idea, Aydalot said he would be  
interested in hearing how other partners have responded to  
this proposal.

- Developing a Paper on the Global Missile Threat for Use in  
Outreach Activities: Aydalot said France is in total  
agreement on the need for such a paper, adding that this sort  
of outreach is all the more important since it is currently  
difficult for potential new members to join the MTCR.

-Round Table for Non-Partners: France places a great deal of  
importance on reaching out to non-partners, and has no  
specific objections to this proposal. However, Aydalot said  
the difference between a round table and the Technical  
Outreach Meetings was not clear. Regardless of which  
mechanism partners use for outreach to non-partners, the  
priority should be on ensuring that qualified national  
experts from non-partner nations attend the sessions, since  
currently most nations are represented by generalists from  
their embassies whose lack of expertise minimizes the value  
of the outreach.

-Steps for Addressing Regional Nonproliferation: France  
agrees on the need to focus on regional proliferation  
threats, including mentioning Iran and North Korea in the  
MTCR Plenary press release.

[1](#)2. (C) The GOF responses to specific sub-proposals on  
regional nonproliferation follow:

--Updating and Adding the Watchlist on Iran: Aydalot said  
France agrees both with the need to update the Iran  
watchlist, and that Sweden, as EU chair, should make this  
recommendation. France is prepared to support this move  
within the EU.

--Adopting a Similar Watchlist on North Korea: Aydalot said  
the GOF, with the Ministry of Defense as lead agency, has  
already been drafting a watchlist on North Korea. Aydalot  
said he had seen a draft, which was similar to the Iran  
watchlist, and added that he hoped it could be distributed

appropriately by the beginning of October.

--Distributing to All Partners An Updated List of Entities of Concern: France strongly supports updating this list, since the situation on the ground has changed considerably since the last list was distributed in 2005. Aydalot asked if the United States would be prepared to take on this task.

--Using Bilateral Contacts to Discourage Missile Transactions with North Korea: France agrees that it is appropriate to use bilateral contacts with third countries to discourage missile or missile technology transfers to or from North Korea. Aydalot said it would be good to keep this proposal separate from the similar proposal (below) regarding Iran.

--Using Bilateral Contacts to Discourage Missile Transactions with Iran: Aydalot welcomed this initiative and the U.S. offer to make the proposal.

--Undertaking to Press China: Aydalot strongly agreed with the U.S. proposal, adding that France maintains its opposition to Chinese membership in the MTCR, saying China "is not ready yet."

13. (C) Additionally, Aydalot said France supports the idea of a Small Group meeting on the margins of the MTCR Plenary, and said that the French Consulate General in Rio may be a workable venue. However, he has not yet approached the Consulate General to address logistical questions and added that if Japan has a meeting place available, that may be a convenient option.

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